Praying the Rosary for America...

As human efforts fail to solve America’s key problems, we turn to God, through His Holy Mother, asking His urgent help.

The American TFP – America Needs Fatima – www.TFP.org

5,963 Public Square Rosary Rallies Across America
The Failure to Act—a Great Source of Scandal

BY ARCHBISHOP RAYMOND BURKE

We not only recognize the responsibility of Christians and of all men of good will to enunciate and uphold the natural moral law; we also recognize the scandal that is promoted when Christians fail to uphold the moral law in public life. When those who profess to be Christian favor and promote policies and laws that permit the destruction of innocent and defenseless human life, which violate the integrity of marriage and the family, then citizens are confused and led into error about the basic tenets of the moral law. In our time, there is a great hesitation to speak about scandal, as if it is only a phenomenon among small or unenlightened minds, and, therefore, a tool of such persons to condemn others rashly and wrongly.

Certainly, there is such a thing as pharisaical scandal, that is, a malicious interpretation of the morally good or, at least, morally indifferent actions of another. The term comes from the supposed scandal that Our Lord Jesus caused to the Pharisees by, for instance, healing on the Sabbath a man born blind (cf. John 9:13–41).

But there is also true scandal, that is, the leading of others, by our words, actions and failures to act, into confusion and error, and, therefore, into sin. Our Lord was unequivocal in his condemnation of those who would confuse or lead others into sin by their actions and their failures to act. In teaching His disciples about temptations, He declared, “It is impossible that scandals should not come; but woe to him through whom they come. It were better for him that a millstone were put about his neck, and he cast into the sea, than that he should scandalize one of these little ones” (Luke 17:1–2).

Adapted from Cardinal-designate Raymond Burke’s speech of October 9, 2010 to the World Prayer Congress for Life.
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The American TFP
The American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property (TFP) is an organization of lay Catholic Americans concerned about the moral crisis shaking the remnants of Christian civilization. Its origins date back to January 1971, when the first TFP members started to group around the publication Crusade for a Christian Civilization. It is a civic, cultural and nonpartisan organization which, inspired by the traditional teachings of the Supreme Magisterium of the Roman Catholic Church, works in a legal and peaceful manner in the realm of ideas to defend and promote the principles of private ownership, family and perennial Christian values with their twofold function: individual and social. The TFP’s words and efforts have always been faithfully at the service of Christian civilization. The first TFP was founded in Brazil by the famous intellectual and Catholic leader Prof. Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira in 1960. His work inspired the formation of other autonomous TFP sister organizations across the globe, thus constituting the world’s largest anticommunist and antipSocialist network of Catholic inspiration.
The Real John Lennon

World media recently celebrated the 70th anniversary of John Lennon’s birth. With 14 million album sales in the United States alone, it is difficult to ignore the far-reaching influence of John Lennon and the Beatles on Western culture. However, his work is no motive for celebration according to David A. Noebel’s *The Legacy of John Lennon—Charming or Harming a Generation*. John Lennon referred to himself as an “instinctive socialist,” and vocally called for the abolition of “all money, police, and government.” Songs like “Working Class Hero,” “Give Peace a Chance,” “Back in the USSR,” “Power to the People” and “Angela” clearly pushed the Marxist-Communist ideology. “I really thought that love would save us,” he said. “But now I’m wearing a Chairman Mao badge, that’s where it’s at.”

Catholics “Ignore the Poor”? 

The Democratic Farmer Labor Party of Minnesota published an anti-Catholic postcard in the run-up to the 2010 elections. The postcard pictured a Catholic priest holding a bible and wearing an “Ignore the Poor” button. The picture could not be more contradictory since the Catholic Church is the most charitable organization. However, the postcard’s insinuation is that the Church is holding strongly against moral issues like abortion and homosexuality, and should be exclusively helping the poor.

Times Square Bomber Convicted

Faisal Shahzad, the Islamic *jihadist* who tried to set off a car bomb in Times Square, was given life imprisonment after the FBI proved his bomb’s destructiveness by copying its components and videorecording its effect. While in court, Shahzad said he is a “Muslim soldier” and that, “If I’m given 1,000 lives I will sacrifice them all for the life of Allah,” and that “We are only Muslims … but if you call us terrorists, we are proud terrorists and will keep on terrorizing you.” When the judge asked him if he had sworn allegiance to the United States when he became a citizen the year before, he answered, “I did swear but I did not mean it,” and that “we do not accept your democracy or your freedom because we already have sharia law and freedom.”

Adult Stem Cell

Bernadine Healy, the former head of the American Red Cross and the pro-human embryonic stem-cell research National Institutes of Health, published “Why Embryonic Stem Cells Are Obsolete,” in the March 4, 2009 issue of *U.S. News and World Report* disapproving of Obama’s stem-cell policy of funding deadly embryonic stem-cell research instead of prioritizing on the already successful and legitimate adult stem-cells research. In her article, she points out that many strong backers of embryonic stem cell research no longer hope in using them to find a cure for Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s and diabetes and many even consider embryonic stem cells completely obsolete for any research. She then went on to prove the importance of adult stem cells with reports that they are benefiting patients with spinal cord injuries and multiple sclerosis.

Rosary Saves British Soldier

Glenn Hockton, 19, who completed a seven-month tour of duty in Afghanistan with the British Coldstream Guards, believes his Rosary saved him. While on patrol in the deadly Helmand province, his Rosary suddenly fell from his neck. When he bent down to pick up his Rosary, he realized he was standing on a landmine. He stood very still while other soldiers disarmed the landmine.
On the last weekend before the November elections, seven TFP Student Action members spent three days distributing the Ten Reasons to Reject Socialism flier in New York City. It was easy to hand out thousands of the fliers on the pedestrian-packed sidewalks. Two members playing bagpipes, the TFP standard and the red capes also drew the crowd’s attention.

Immigrants who fled the former communist countries of Czechoslovakia, Estonia, Latvia and Yugoslavia thanked the members and told horror stories of life under state totalitarianism. One Cuban migrant from that communist country said, “You must give this out because if we don’t let people know what socialism is, we’re going to wake up in a socialist country.” An East Berliner said he thanks God every morning that he is in the United States but fears for its future.

Ironically, many well-off New Yorkers stopped to insist that socialism is the solution for America. One said that private property and greed led America into our current economic problems and it was time to give socialism a try. A member of TFP Student Action replied, “Madam, do you own a phone? I don’t, and under socialism you should share what you have. Would you mind giving it to me so I can make a long-distance call to a family member?” The socialist replied that under socialism everyone would have access to a phone but still refused to lend her phone.

Nevertheless, New Yorkers received Ten Reasons to Reject Socialism with open minds, and many asked for additional copies for friends. One complimented the flier’s conciseness and said even those against socialism need to know why socialism is bad. In conversations with New Yorkers, most saw the connection between the breakdown of the family and the promotion of socialism. The state could never pretend to be responsible for health care, education, credit and food if the family had not already been weakened by selfishness, homosexuality, abortion, divorce and diminished generosity within the Catholic Church.

Before leaving New York City, the TFP volunteers prayed at Saint Patrick’s Cathedral so those who received and read Ten Reasons to Reject Socialism will remember them and spread them far and wide.

To learn more about the Ten Reasons to Reject Socialism campaign or to read the flier, go to www.tfpstudentaction.org.
Born in Pittsfield, Mass., Mr. Philip B. Calder showed notable musical gifts at an early age, beginning piano at age seven and organ soon afterwards. His first composition was written at age 11, and at 13 he became the favored pupil of internationally renowned composer and conductor, John Duffy, in theory, counterpoint, harmony, orchestration and conducting, and under whose tutelage he joined the famous Tanglewood Music Festival.

At the Julius Hartt Conservatory of Music, Mr. Calder studied keyboard artistry with chairman and piano master Leo Rewinski, later graduating in piano study and performance after attaining first place in the 1958 Conservatory Competition. Mr. Calder then went on to study organ with Ernest Nichols, highly regarded disciple of the legendary Virgil Fox.

Mr. Calder, composer of hundreds of works for solo piano, instrumental ensemble and orchestra, has performed throughout the Western and Eastern Hemispheres as pianist, organist and conductor, including featured appearances at Carnegie Hall and with the Metropolitan Opera.

Mr. Calder is one of the founding members of the American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property.

Crusade: What could you say in general about the nature of music and its workings?

Philip Calder: Through the centuries, music has been one of the highest arts, and perhaps one of the most abstract, in the sense that you can hear it but not touch it. By its nature, music is very impalpable, very ethereal and very abstract, yet it moves us so deeply that it touches the human heart and soul. Saint John Chrysostom, in the early Church, said that music was invented in heaven; and that if man is a musician, he is so by revelation of the Holy Spirit.

We can trace the origin of music back to the beginning of humanity. From the earliest times, man has always desired to express himself, hence all the different arts. And most of us, whether musicians or not, have tried humming a melody, or finding a tune, and these are the first efforts of musical composition.

There are many places in the Old Testament where musical instruments appear, such as the harp and the lyre, and King David is recorded as singing with instrumental accompaniment. The ancient Greeks were among those who discovered the seven scales, which were later used by the Catholic Church in the formation of Gregorian chant. So since the beginning, we can see the deep place music has had in man's life on this earth.

Crusade: During the splendorous Christian civilization of the Middle Ages, how far was music developed?

Philip Calder: Music is a basic component in the salvific and wondrous influence of the Catholic Church, which has always aimed not only at giving people the true religion, but also at forming an entire civilization. Hence the development of all the arts and crafts that, under the Church’s influence, soared higher and higher. We think right away of Gregorian chant, which was codified by Pope Saint Gregory I in the sixth century. In fact, by the Middle Ages, this was the music that had developed the most. Gregorian chant
at the service of the sacred liturgy has never been equaled, and expresses very much the unity of God.

In the secular realm, music was not so developed, though we find, in the last century of the Middle Ages, the beautiful example of the music for the coronation of King Saint Louis IX in 1226, which has two clear musical lines. There is the main line, along with an accompanying line, which is the beginning of a type of harmony. This definitely shows a further development of music, which we see much more of as we go on from there.

**Crusade:** Professor Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira makes explicit three depths of the Revolution: in the tendencies, in the ideas and in the facts. What role can music play in all this?

**Philip Calder:** To answer this question it is necessary to understand what he means by these three depths and the one that is most applicable here is the first: the tendencies. Professor Corrêa de Oliveira’s thesis is that if you have an environment like a room in a home, or perhaps a town square, the kind of structure and how it is decorated will affect the movements of soul that people will have within that environment. And in any such environment, if we have music playing, the characteristics of that music are going to influence the way people respond. Professor Corrêa de Oliveira’s analysis shows that the tendency precedes an idea. The person is moved to have a tendency in one direction or another, and that usually precedes a conscious idea that the person has, and once the person gets the idea, this in turn precedes an act, a fact or actual happening.

Movement in the tendencies usually precedes everything, and that is where music really comes into this equation. Music can be very good, very bad or anything in between. A music that is very good tends to influence a movement of soul of everyone within the environment toward good things. If the music is not good, that will tend to influence people in a wrong direction. And so, as Professor Corrêa de Oliveira shows, the Revolution used all the arts very successfully in motivating mankind from one decadence to the next. Music was not at the forefront of this process, because as we said music still went on to develop in a very fine way long after the Middle Ages. But gradually, as music began to decline and become more Revolutionary in various aspects, it moved to the forefront of influencing people in one direction or another because of its power of expression. And what is so powerful is that, being the most abstract, it speaks to the subliminal aspect of our soul, an area where we can be influenced without even realizing it. Music can be effective wonderfully in moving people toward the good, and it can be effective devastatingly in moving people toward the bad.

**Crusade:** Do you think music is in the forefront of the Revolution today?

**Philip Calder:** It is definitely in the forefront and I am sorry to say in a very bad way. One of the main reasons this happens is because people are not generally accustomed to analyzing how they respond to things. They tend to just respond. If you respond to something without asking yourself, “Why am I responding to this that way?” you can find yourself being lead down a path much farther than you would have otherwise realized.

**Crusade:** One of the most poisonous aspects of the Revolution is its desire for total equality in all aspects. As Catholic doctrine and history teaches, this is opposed diametrically to God’s order, the way He created the Universe and His designs for human society. Can music examples show the falseness of the Revolutionary maxim of total
equality and the irrefutable righteousness of the harmonious inequality of God’s order?

**Philip Calder:** Well, before I had the privilege to meet and know Professor Corrêa de Oliveira, I always had a clear notion of why I liked a piece of music. But all the deeper reasoning, influenced by studying his work *Revolution and Counter-Revolution* when applied to the history of music, becomes very enlightening.

One of the examples I like to use very much is a famous example from a piece which demonstrates irrefutably how God’s order intended to have a harmonious inequality. We are all given repeatedly that noxious and poisonous precept that everything has to be equal at all levels and on all fronts. It is simply not true. Let the first movement, or the allegro, of Mozart’s Piano Sonata in C major, K. 545, speak for itself. It is the most famous piano sonata Mozart wrote. Most everybody has heard it and everyone who has studied piano and gets to a certain degree of accomplishment will play this sonata, and the melody is in the right hand, and the accompaniment is in the left. If you take the right hand alone it is perfectly evident that it controls the melody. But if you play the accompaniment in the left hand alone, it is nice, but it is just the figuration of some chords over and over again. And this by itself would become very tiresome, very quickly. However, if you play just the melody by itself, you perceive that there is less beauty there than when you play the melody with the accompaniment, that is, the two hands together. As such the whole is much greater than the parts, though you do also perceive that the melody is superior, or is higher, than the accompaniment that supports it. The accompaniment is not crushed by the melody, nor is it put aside by the melody, but they work perfectly together. The accompaniment supports and elevates the melody and the melody in turn lifts up the accompaniment. The two together are a perfect example of harmonious inequality. So we can show that the whole idea that everything should be entirely equal is simply fallacious.

**Crusade:** So, could we say that God wrote His signature in the harmonious inequality of the world of sound? And to what lengths have Revolutionary musicians of the twentieth century gone in denying this hierarchical world of sound?

**Philip Calder:** There are two distinct questions here, but they are very much related. There are a number of examples to show how God wrote His signature in the hierarchical world of sound. If we take any musical sound, on any instrument, the human ear hears that one sound. But, physics has shown that when that one sound is vibrating, there are actually 15 other sounds, inaudible to the human ear, that are sounding higher at the same time. That’s called the overtone series. The pattern is always the same.

Without getting too technical, you start from the given tone, and the number two sound, which is the first of these other 15, is an octave. So if you have a C, the next tone is going to be a C. The third one will be the G above that. The fourth will be the C above that G. So, you perceive already here, that there is an order. All those first four basic tones are in the same key. You are not going to have a C, a C-sharp, a G-sharp and a D-flat, because those would not be sympathetic tones.

God puts His signature in this, because He constructed nature, which of course includes the science of sound. We only discover the things He put there already. And it is interesting how this overtone series has definite bearing to religion, to the Catholic doctrine, because the tone that is given could be like the visible world. The 15 others are the invisible. People who don’t have faith will say, “What are you talking about? It’s not there!” But we know that they are there. The angels are there. The overtones are there.

Another example of how God put His signature would be the common scale, because He made the scale, the major scale. We see the major scale most easily in the notes on the piano from C to C. Just the white notes. Now anyone who hears that, if they have never had any musical training, they will notice that it has a certain rightness. If you take instead of those eight

**[T]he whole is much greater than the parts, though you do also perceive that the melody is superior, or is higher, than the accompaniment that supports it.**
white notes, all of a sudden go from E to B-sharp to B-flat, to end up in D-flat, they will ask “What are you doing? Why did you do that? It doesn’t fit.” So that series of keys carries an order within itself. It speaks for itself. The proof is in the sound.

Now, the second part of the question, the old masters understood this in many ways and built their great musical structures what we could call, “musical truths.” Nobody is going to write a symphony in C major and end it in B major because that would jar the very identity of that piece. B major is a beautiful chord, but it doesn’t belong in ending a symphony in C major. As time went on, composers found more ways to modulate, going from one key to another, and coming back again. But, all of the great ones would reaffirm the truth of things of philosophy, good sense, balance, rightness, symmetry, by starting in one place, doing a tremendous variety and coming back to the main. If we didn’t do so it would start to dislocate, and unsettle something deep within the listener.

Anyway, as time went on and the Revolution went further in leading man away from God, the modern musicians as well as the modern painters, sculptors and architects, became infected with this idea of doing something completely different. They became less humble, as it were, to build upon the great things of the past. All the masters of the past in any of the great pursuits of art would build upon the good things that had been done before. In music, if you didn’t have Palestrina, Corelli and all those great masters, you wouldn’t have had Bach and Handel. There’s no way. And, you certainly wouldn’t have had Mozart. Mozart didn’t just come out of nowhere and start writing his music. The modern idea of total equality and everybody being independent gave musicians this idea that unless they did something totally different than anyone had ever done, they wouldn’t have any value. Well, in the twentieth century this has gone completely wild. For example, Arnold Schoenberg came up with this idea that he called the “12-tone rule.” He didn’t invent these 12 tones, what he did was come up with an arbitrary rule that said the person writing the music could not reuse any of the 12 tones, until he had used all the others. This was something not only arbitrary but fatal to any recognizable work of music, because in any great piece of music, even a chant, there is that beautiful repeated progression. So, it is only natural for the human soul to hear beautiful music and say, “I want to hear it again.”

Now you can ask, what’s the Revolution got to do with it? To say that something must be completely different and never return again, jars the whole notion of order. So, under this 12-tone rule, composers began saying that the relationship of those chords we talked about has to be denied completely. In other words, there’s no order, no hierarchy, no inequality, nothing. Now, if you reduce everything to the same plane in any sphere, as the great Saint Thomas said, you’ll never find God. You’ll only find God at the height of a long hierarchical series, going up. And the only way you can have a hierarchy of things is when things are different. If things are the same you cannot sort them, because they’re all the same. Nothing has preeminence over anything else, nothing serves anything else, everything has its own beginning and end, and there’s a total breakdown. That’s what’s happened in society, and that’s what’s happened in music. The twentieth century musicians have gone mad in trying to devise new ways of doing things. The end result of what they do is chaos, which is the absolute opposite of the tremendous ordering of civilization and the arts, which the Church has always done.

Crusade: Since music is capable of expressing the whole range of human emotion and feeling, of temperaments and states of soul, and can portray the most noble and good of man’s aspirations or the most evil and depraved depths to which he may fall, can you give us a guide or means by which we can objectively analyze a piece of music, to see to what degree it is good or bad?

Philip Calder: There are, thanks to the luminous wisdom of the Catholic Church, several things that can help us. Of course we have to apply those things to music. One is what’s called in theology, the four attributes of being. If we analyze anything in God’s creation and anything that man has done when it is good, it will have these four attributes. These are the unum, the verum, the bonum and the pulchrum.

The unum means the oneness of something. Anything
Liturgical music reached a height that has not been passed by another type of music.

that is good and right in God’s eyes has a oneness. You are not going to see a rose stem coming out of an oak tree. The tree has a oneness unto itself. Similarly, in a good piece of music, you will perceive how the different parts and the sounds and everything seem to go together and form a unified whole. It’s not, all of a sudden, like something will come out of there that has nothing to do with the rest of it. It would break the unum, the oneness.

The second quality, the verum, is the truthfulness. Anything in God’s creation has a truth unto itself, it has a right reason for being. And so anything good that man has done reflecting God’s order has this verum. A good work of music, as well as the other arts, will have a truthfulness, a true purpose, a good purpose to it.

Now, the bonum is the goodness. Anything that God made in the universe has a goodness. The things man has done which are good, that is, pleasing in God’s sight, will have a reason for being. And so, for example, a good piece of music is going to be very out of place in a discothèque.

The fourth quality is the pulchrum, which means beauty. And what the great Catholic philosophers have shown is that if you have the first three, that is, the unum, the verum and the bonum, you have the conditions for beauty. If you are missing any one of the first three, you will not have the fourth. That’s why that famous phrase, “beauty is in the eye of the beholder” can be quite deceiving, for if the beholder is not grounded in these good principles, the beholder may have a distorted idea of what beauty is.

There is another point that also comes from the Catholic theologians. Saint Thomas makes explicit what he calls the three faculties of the soul: intelligence, will and sensibility. Intelligence gives the understanding, the ability to analyze and understand something. If these faculties are in their right order, the intelligence enlightens the will so that a person is directed to want things that the intelligence has shown to be good. The lowest of the three faculties is the sensibility, that is, the way the soul responds to exterior stimuli. Here we are talking about music. So the way our soul responds to a certain series of sounds, that’s the sensibility.

Now, if the intelligence and will are in the right order, and if we’re facing a series of sounds deemed to be objectionable, the will orders the sensibility of the soul to reject it. If our intelligence and will have not done what they should have, then the sensibility is kind of just allowed to reign. So what the Revolution did gradually was to invert these three, because it got people used to not using their intelligence to get to the bottom of something. The less people use intelligence, the less the will has the ability to discern. And so that explains why this whole gradual process over a long time resulted in what has been called the “civilization of the image.” This encompasses not only physical, palpable images, but images of sounds, whatever sounds the person happens to like because his friends like it, and he does not make any conscious analysis or rejection of it. That’s what’s happened in our modern age; it has gone completely wild.

In the context of this interview here, people need to start meditating about a piece of music and ask, “Why do I like this?” How do I like this? How does this piece of music hold up under the four attributes of being? Does the composer or performer have the faculties of their soul in the right order or has everything been entirely inverted? And, if people begin to do that enough they’re going to have a more objective approach to the music they like, and not just say, “I like the music.” Why? “I don’t know, I like it.” That’s not enough. None of us should be satisfied with that explanation about anything. I don’t want to give the idea here that these things are all black and white. They are not. There are degrees. How far can one go with something having undesirable degrees before saying, “That’s it”? The more a person can put these things in focus, the more their soul is going to grow, their interior life is going to grow, and the more their preferences are going to be refined. There are preferences in music, and preferences in everything else.

Crusade: After much analysis it becomes evident that the highest musical achievements have been attained when man receives the supernatural
graces flowing from Christian Civilization. A collateral question arises: can good musical fruits be produced in societies existing solely in the natural order?

Philip Calder: The great missionary efforts of the Church through the ages have shown that when the Church has reached out to people of all backgrounds, we see that God, as the Father of all, never abandons anyone. In the billions of people God has created from the beginning, one can see an infinite number of degrees, as each one is unique. God will not fail to give each one, on whatever level they are at, the means to know Him. One of the ways the Church shows us that God reveals Himself is through the Ten Commandments. However, even in primitive people who have never heard of them, the Ten Commandments are written in their hearts. Each one knows what is right and wrong.

Societies—I’d rather reserve “civilization” for that which the Church has developed—that didn’t have the supernatural influence of the Church, but just existed in the natural order, are going to have all different degrees of these things. For example one of the oldest societies, China, even without the civilizing and salvific influence of the Church, did many beautiful things. Of course there were disorders, but the Chinese have tremendous refinement and intelligence, with a great appreciation of beauty. Now, coming to the specific point of music, I cite an example of an instrument that they developed, the erhu (pronounced ARE-who), a string instrument with a bow. It appears that the Chinese developed this after seeing a lute, which is a string instrument of European origin. The erhu in its range is almost identical to that of the violin. It has only two strings, which are the D above middle C and the A above that. The violin has the G below middle C, then the same two middle strings, and the upper string E. Now, the difference in sound is very interesting. The erhu is very expressive of the Chinese people, with a sound that is quite beautiful, almost like an instrument that mirrors the way they sing.

For a long time, until about 30 years or so ago, the erhu has been more of a popular, folksy type of instrument as compared to one capable of great virtuosity. But it’s interesting that the Chinese have now developed a tremendous love and admiration for Western culture and music, and this has motivated them to begin learning Western musical instruments. And they have become extraordinary in their musical capacity, and students of music in the West can almost wonder at the degree of perfection that these Chinese have attained, especially with the violin. Now under this impulse, the erhu players have developed a tremendous degree of virtuosity, on two strings. You could almost say that a virtuoso erhu player can do almost what a violin can; and that is saying a lot.

Crusade: Considering the vast universe of music we have discussed here, what would be your summarizing comments?

Philip Calder: Music has great importance for all of us. Most everyone is moved by music of some kind. Everything in our environment influences us in one way or another, so the arts, decoration, the way we talk, our clothes, and so forth, are all relevant. Music, as we have tried to show here, influences us very profoundly. It is hard to put your finger on why the music affects us as it does. For that very reason, it seems absolutely essential that everyone begin analyzing the type of music they like, and to try and determine why they like it, because it is going to help them morally and spiritually. It takes a little time, because it is not a mathematical science. To anyone who doesn’t know the great masterpieces of the past, the great music of Palestrina, down through the history of music before it started to go off base, we can say that a wonderful world awaits them. So, I would strongly encourage everyone to go deeper into music, and the understanding of the music they are hearing.
It was a weekend full of camaraderie and blessings. The National Conference of the American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property (TFP) united nearly 275 friends who gathered on October 29–31 in Spring Grove, Penn., to discuss the theme, “Exploring Solutions to the Crisis of Leadership: Courage and Hope for the Militant Catholic.”

Rallies and Book Launchings
There was much to celebrate at this conference, one of the largest in recent history. Most of the participants had been part of the 5,963 Public Square Rosary Rallies held nationwide on October 16, 2010.

The conference also included the launching of two books, *The Christian Institution of the Family: A Dynamic Force to Regenerate Society* and *Plinio: A Man for Our Times*. Published by the TFP in the United Kingdom, Mr. Richard Lyon presented a brief summary and application of how to use the first book to defend the family. The second book, written by Andrea Fragelli Phillips, is a biography of Professor Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira that summarizes the life and works of this noted Catholic thinker and man of action.

Leadership, a Timely Theme
American TFP Vice President John Horvat delivered, “Exploring Solutions on the Crisis in Leadership”; Mr. Michael Whitcraft spoke about social hierarchy and Divine Providence; Mr. Mario Navarro da Costa presented, “In the Evening of This Life, We Will Be Judged According Our Love”; Mr. Norman Fulkerson delivered, “The Ordering Principle: Sovereignty and Vital Flux”; Mr. Luiz Solimeo presented a talk on temperance and prudence as necessary virtues; Mr. Nelson Fragelli used the example of Saint Nuno Alvares Pereira as an example of leadership for today’s society; and Dr. Joseph Thomas dealt with the subject of character strengths and virtues from the perspective of military leadership.

Conviviality and Blessings
Nevertheless, while the talks were the important centerpiece to the conference, many were also drawn by the opportunity to get together with others of similar mind and heart. Our Lady’s blessings upon the event were quite evident. Even those who were attending for the first time felt part of a great family of souls united together in a great spiritual crusade for a Christian civilization.

Christ the King
The final Mass on the feast of Christ the King was held on the grounds of the TFP center. There was a magnificent Latin Mass sung by the TFP members wearing the organization’s ceremonial habit. Father Jonathan Romanoski, FSSP, celebrated the Mass and delivered a rousing sermon.

The weekend ended inside the large medieval-style tent where all sat down together for the final dinner. Prince Bertrand gave the final address speaking on the Catholic leadership of Professor Corrêa de Oliveira. He exhorted participants to continue their efforts confiding in the promise of victory at Fatima. The final farewell lingered long into the night as all gave thanks to Christ the King and the Blessed Mother for a weekend full of blessings.

From top to bottom: TFP member Michael Drake holds *Plinio*, a biography of the TFP’s founder Professor Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira written by Andrea Fragelli Phillips. Prince Bertrand gave the final address. A delegation of eight Hawaiians attended the conference. TFP members in their ceremonial habit led the candle-light rosary procession. The meetings discussed the theme “Exploring Solutions to the Crisis of Leadership.”
Reflections Upon the 2010 Public Square Rosary Rallies

By John Horvat II

On October 16, over 150,000 Catholics gathered in 5,963 public places all over America to hold Public Square Rosary Rallies to pray for our nation in this time of uncertainty and moral decadence.

These events invite reflection. This display of faith is not just the praying of a Rosary but the affirmation of common cause in the public square. We are not alone. All across the nation, there are 5,963 places that are experiencing the same thing. People are doing their part. All have a certain anxiety of appearing in public. Although we do not know one another, we are one. We are part of the same spiritual crusade.

What unites us? It is not just a pious practice or the spiritual consolation of prayer together. What makes us venture outside the church doors and into the public square so boldly is a concern for our nation. We see the triumph of sin, the decay of morals and the destruction of the family. We feel we have to do something since human solutions are not working. Thus, we call upon God and His Blessed Mother. We go out into the streets to make public our petitions. We want others to see our affliction and join us all over our great country.

Moreover, this public act asks of us a great sacrifice. We are asked to bear the greatest possible witness by choosing the public square. It is all well and good to pray hidden at home or church. It is quite another thing

Although we do not know one another, we are one. We are part of the same spiritual crusade.
to do so in public in front of people we do not know yet who could ridicule us. It is even harder to be out in public in front of family, friends and acquaintances who might also ridicule us. But we make the effort to overcome our fears and proudly join ranks.

Nevertheless, what makes this easier to accomplish is that we are doing this with 5,963 other groups around the country. We know some will be praying in the rain and wind. Others will enjoy perfect weather. Some will be massive rallies with hundreds in attendance. Most will be mid-sized rallies of 20 to 100. Perhaps even more touching are those difficult rallies with only two or three brave souls, or even one. All are united in prayer and concern.

During these rallies, we become the central point of attention in the public square. People stop and read our banners. They see us praying and even kneeling on the pavement. They hear hymns to Our Lady echo down the streets. All activity is suspended in function of the rally. We occupy the public square for an hour and the sweet perfume of the event lingers on for some time afterward. In the minds of countless observers, a seed of Faith is planted.

We are also united with others who have prayed before us. It fortifies us to think of
those who have publicly prayed the Rosary in history and unite ourselves to them as well. How many valiant souls have paraded in public in times of national afflictions? How many Catholic soldiers in modern times of persecution have walked into battle Rosary in hand in France, Mexico and Spain? We need only think of the massive public Rosary crusade in 1946 in Austria that drove the Soviet Army from Austrian soil. We are a continuation of these heroes who likewise prayed for their countries. We likewise hope for our Blessed Mother’s maternal aid.

Above all, we are part of the solution proposed by Our Lady at Fatima. She appeared publicly to ask men to amend their lives and pray the Rosary. Indeed, the idea first surfaced in 2007 as a special project of the America Needs Fatima campaign to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the Miracle of the Sun at Fatima with 2,000 rallies.

By appearing in public against all obstacles, we are like those 100,000 faithful Portuguese who did the same in 1917 and who witnessed that great Miracle of the Sun.

In 2010, there were 5,963 rallies that, like votive candles, lit up America. One can only reflect how magnificent it is to be with Our Lady in the public square! How honored we are to be part of this great spiritual crusade!

To see more pictures of the 2010 Public Square Rosary Rallies, go to www.americaneedsfatima.org/2010-gallery.
Red and White Roses by the Thousands

BY JAMES BASCOM

As we made our way to the main square in front of the Basilica of Fatima on October 13, we reflected upon the gravity and symbolism of our mission: to deliver nearly 6,000 red roses, each representing a Rosary Rally Captain, and 2,000 white roses, each representing a Rally Sponsor. All the prayers and hard work of participants in America Needs Fatima’s Public Square Rosary Rally campaign were to be presented symbolically to Our Lady where she appeared and performed the Miracle of the Sun 93 years ago.

In the middle of such a worldwide rejection of the Faith, the Ten Commandments, the breakup of the family, and so many other evils, 5,963 faithful Catholics organized rallies of devotees to Our Lady who are willing to say “YES!” to Our Lady’s requests of prayer and penance at Fatima.

A group of young Portuguese graciously agreed to help us arrange the almost 8,000 roses on three large wooden grates. With this group of about a dozen, plus the four of us, it took 30 minutes to arrange everything in front of the shrine.

After taking a group picture, we took the roses and left them at the Chapel of Apparitions in front of the main Basilica, the exact spot where Our Lady appeared. We then went up to the Basilica, where Blessed Francisco and Jacinta are buried, and prayed a Rosary for all the Rosary Rally Captains and for the preparations for next year’s rallies.

The Force Behind the 5,963 Rosary Rallies

BY FRANCIS SLOBODNIK

To make the 2010 Public Square Rosary Crusade a success, America Needs Fatima volunteers spent countless hours maintaining computer databases, the Web site, folding and stuffing envelopes, shipping kits and manuals, and printing thousands of banners.

One of the greatest assets for the Public Square Rosary is the Kansas call center which enrolls thousands of new Public Square Rosary Rally captains annually. This kind of apostolate takes a tremendous amount of dedication.

Sacrificing much, volunteers travel from all over America to come here, not knowing any of us, yet putting themselves in our care for a week or two, or, in some cases returning again within the same year.

There was Margarita from Puerto Rico and Mary Anne from Texas, both who came twice over the summer. There was Elizabeth from California who helped make calls for several weeks at her youthful age of 12.

There were two who almost didn’t come because of serious illness in one family and because of a death in the other family. In both cases, family members encouraged them to go to Kansas and volunteer, telling them the best way to help their family member was by serving Our Lady.

Another volunteer was the descendant of brave Mexican Cristeros. Another volunteer passes out holy cards and prayers to the customers she encounters where she works. An enthusiastic mother and daughter from southern California made the trip together.

Another mother’s teenage daughter suggested that mom needed a vacation. She took her daughter up on her suggestion and came here to volunteer for her vacation.

The final story is of a volunteer from Tucson, Ariz., who, while here, was riding on a bus. The bus went too fast over a speed bump and as a result she suffered fractured vertebrae. She insisted on remaining, while still in a brace, until the end of her stay to make calls and enroll as many Rally Captains as possible.

These are just some of the stories of the magnificent volunteers who travel to Kansas annually to help make the Public Square Rosary Crusade become the glorious event that it has become.
Protesting a Public Satanic Ritual

BY FRANCIS SLOBODNIK

On Thursday, October 23, a public satanic ritual was performed at the Civic Center in Oklahoma City, Okla. Around 35 dedicated Catholic souls stood with TFP and America Needs Fatima to offer a public rally of reparation for this sacrilegious and blasphemous event.

Those present at the rally traveled from all over to have their voices heard. There were protesters from Arkansas, Texas, as well as from Topeka and Wichita, Kansas.

Some protesters were on their knees throughout the rally and some held signs such as, “Honk If You Reject Satan,” “Who Is Like Unto God?” and “How can ‘One Nation Under God’ allow this?”

In customary form, the satanists were led into the event through a side door instead of facing the peaceful, yet fervent, protesters at the main entrance. Evil always acts cowardly when confronted by good. According to The Oklahoman, the organizer of the event, James Hale, “told the audience that they would witness a ritual ‘blasphemy’ taken from the Roman Catholic rite of exorcism.”

Hale claimed to have sent out some 70 tickets for the event. Only half of those alleged to have tickets actually showed up. Perhaps the Rosaries scared them off. Who says that protests are ineffective?

As some of the protesters were leaving, three satanists walked by and shouted, “Long live Satan.” A protester loudly proclaimed, “Ipsa conteret.” The satanists attempted to repeat their cry, and each time the protestor repeated the same. Finally, one of the satanists asked what “Ipsa conteret” meant. When we explained that it meant, “She [Our Lady] shall crush,” they became silent.

Keeping Our Promises

BY ANTONIO FRAGELLI

Fatima was the place chosen by Our Blessed Mother to come down from Heaven to deliver a sublime message that the world has not followed, but a message that would be the key to our modern problems, end of wars and end to so much misery, especially spiritual darkness.

The Fatima message is a message of prayer, repentance and sacrifice, something modern man shuns. It is not a sensational message. The only time Our Lady chose to perform a sensational miracle was on October 13, 1917, and her intention was to prove that her message was from Heaven. The 70,000 people who witnessed the Miracle of the Sun on that day left without any doubt that the apparitions were true.

In America, there are many Catholics who believe in this message and who confirm regularly their belief by their actions. An example of this was the delivery of two large candles and a large cloth banner to Fatima, Portugal, on September 13, 2010.

The candles came from thousands of small candles sent by Fatima believers, which were melted into a large candle that was lit at the shrine. The cloth banner was composed of thousands of small pieces of cloth where devotees wrote their names or intentions. These small pieces were sewed into one large banner and the banner was taken to Fatima as a symbol of love and devotion.

May the number of those who believe in the Fatima message multiply and may their pleas in favor of a sinful world be heard.
Delivered: Over 18,000 Consecrations to Saint Michael the Archangel

BY MATTHEW SHIBLER

I recently traveled to the Sanctuary of Monte Sant’Angelo in Italy where Saint Michael appeared to the bishop of Sipontum near the mountain peak in A.D. 490. Saint Michael asked that this spot be consecrated to him and in return the archangel would protect the bishop’s diocese from the devil, plague and invasion.

My mission on this trip was to deliver over 18,000 consecrations to Saint Michael that America Needs Fatima members had completed. Carrying over 64 pounds of consecrations to the site of Saint Michael’s apparition was no easy feat but it was a great honor.

Seeing the consecrations presented before him, I saw how this was the perfect way to complete a consecration to Saint Michael. In a sense, the privileged America Needs Fatima members have prayed their consecration before the statue of Saint Michael much like the millions of other pilgrims before them. After also reciting the consecration, I felt the protection of Saint Michael as I hope everyone else does.

Our Lady Gave Them a ‘Miracle’ Baby

BY SERGIO DE PAZ

One day an old friend who I had not seen since I had taken the Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima to his home three years previously came walking out of the market. I waved and told him that I was very glad to see him. In return, he expressed his regrets and condolences over the recent death of my son, Sergio Jr. In fact, he was very moved by the news of Junior’s death.

He then confided to me something amazing. He said, “I must tell you a secret; my wife could not conceive a baby. In our search for a solution, we had even ventured into some Pentecostal church that was recommended by a friend. In that church, you know, they don’t like the Virgin Mary. So when you brought the statue of Our Lady of Fatima to our home, I said to Our Lady, ‘If you want me to believe in you, give us a baby.’ Well, my wife gave birth to our baby boy six months ago. Now, we are both very Catholic and active in the Catholic Church.”

Later on, he told me, “Please feel free to pass along this story to as many people as possible. Because I want others who may be in doubt about Our Lady, to know that she is truly the Mother of God and she helps us in every need, great and small.”

Finally, he said, “By the way, I want you to know that we named our son Sergio, which is my middle name, too, but I had not told you this before.”

To schedule a Fatima visit in your home, call (888) 460-7371.
Our Readers Write...

Rosary Rallies
I just wanted to let you know what we have been doing in Fort Thomas, Ky. We are all so concerned about our country and talked about it continuously, so I asked if anyone would be interested in meeting at my house monthly—I was afraid that weekly would be pushing it—for a Rosary for our country. Our first meeting had seven of us, and it was the most mixed up group of people you ever met. We had people I worked with, some didn’t go to church anymore and people I’ve known forever. Now we have 14 and non-Catholics drop in—everyone is welcome!

R.G., via e-mail

This was my first Rosary Rally and I didn’t exactly know how to make it a successful one. But I followed all the instructions on the manual and gathered more than 60 and my parish priest. I now have a much better idea on how to coordinate the next one, and am very eager to organize it again. It was very moving to see the attendance and participation, especially to see a prodigal daughter showing up saying she did not know how to pray, but after following a couple of decades participated with great love.

M.B., Manor, Texas

It was a great joy banding together with all of those praying across America to intercede for peace, and by prayer respond to Our Lady of Fatima.

R.C., Washington, D.C.

Every year you always get about a thousand more than you’re aiming for! People are coming out of their coma!

B.W., via e-mail

You have gotten 5,963 Rallies scheduled for tomorrow?! That is so awesome! I guess Our Lady wanted to top your goal of 5,000 and she did it in a spectacular way! We, who participated in these rallies, are going to receive great graces from Our Lady for our sacrifice, prayers and commitment to her and the spreading of her Fatima message.

J.V., via e-mail

2011 Calendar
Your calendar touched me greatly—to look upon Our Lady of Fatima, being unable to retain a tear, and seeing her merciful face. My deepest gratitude to you for such a special gift.

S.T., Skokie, Ill.

I absolutely love these calendars. I really never want to be without one of them. They are always beautiful and so meaningful.

M.W., Green Bay, Wis.

It looked ordinary at first, but as I paged through the months, each picture of Our Lady became lifelike and very inspiring.

B.P., Friendship, Wis.

Thank you so much for the 2011 calendar. I love the sayings and quotations on each monthly picture.

R.L., Gremont, Calif.

It is truly amazing how beautiful the calendars are. Please send me one every year!

T.V., Daly City, Calif.

Crusade Magazine
Several months ago I received recent copies of Crusade Magazine from a friend of mine who lives in Seattle, Wash. I had never heard of your fine publication and am so impressed with it that I telephoned to subscribe.

Crusade Magazine does not overwhelm with its size but invites one to read. One copy from my friend was the edition with magnificent photos of Saint Thérèse of Lisieux.

I commend and salute you for defending the Faith and upholding God’s Commandments in our day of secular humanism and state governments proposing laws that approve of many practices that are intrinsically evil.

I frequently offer Masses for the conversions of atheists, agnostics and idolaters and those poor souls who blaspheme the Most Holy Eucharist.

May God bless you with much success in defending the Faith and promulgating the love of God and the promise of eternal life to those who love God.

T.S., Bend, Ore.

To get your letter published in Crusade, write us an e-mail at crusade@TFP.org.
Thanks be to God, a peaceful protest worked again!

TFP Student Action is glad to announce that the Boston College Law School, a Catholic institution, has removed Planned Parenthood from its Web site, where it was listed under pro bono organizations.

“The requested URL was not found on this server” is the message that now pops up when trying to access the Planned Parenthood hyperlink.

The listing was pulled after the TFP launched a peaceful online protest, which generated over 7,100 e-mails, personal letters and telephone calls urging the president of Boston College, Father William Leahy, S.J., to remove the listing of Planned Parenthood.

“It’s a shame the listing was there to begin with, but I’m glad it was taken down,” said TFP Student Action Director John Ritchie. “Catholic colleges must not compromise with the culture of death. They should be bold champions of virtue and staunch defenders of innocent life.”

TFP Student Action is grateful to everyone who participated in this effort, especially the brave pro-life students at Boston College who defend the unborn.

May God bless and reward all of you! ■

Moral Values Are Under Assault at St. Joseph’s University

Since 2001, St. Joseph’s University has been sponsoring Unity Week, a pro-homosexual event that conflicts with the moral teaching of the Catholic Church and the university’s mission statement.

Although university officials at St. Joseph’s might claim that Unity Week is only meant to facilitate “dialogue,” the evidence of having pro-homosexual activist who promotes “safe sex” and contraception among college students; a talk from a “LGBT advocate and policy attorney” to the students; a presentation by the Philadelphia Gay Men’s Chorus; and a talk by the director of the LGBTQ Center at Georgetown University shows otherwise.

In 2004, Bishop Joseph P. McFadden, a St. Joseph’s alumnus, opposed Rainbow Week. “While the Church asks that we recognize the unique dignity of every human person, it does not mean supporting a lifestyle that is contrary to the natural law,” he said to The Catholic Standard & Times.

Unity Requires Truth

“There’s no unity without truth,” said TFP Student Action Director John Ritchie, and Unity Week is more about disunity from Church teaching than it is an effort to favor true unity based on the principles of our faith. This event invites the wolves to confuse and scatter the flock—Catholic college students—and that’s unacceptable.”

“In our dark days, homosexual sin, ever abhorred by the Christian conscience, finds prominent apologists within Catholic universities,” Mr. Ritchie continued. “However, Sacred Scripture and the Magisterium have condemned few sins more consistently or severely.”

TFP Student Action invites all to its Web site from where you can contact the president of St. Joseph’s University and respectfully call for the cancelation of the pro-homosexual Unity Week. Your voice as a student, alumnus, concerned parent or individual is important in the peaceful struggle for moral values.

Is “Unity Week” inviting wolves into the fold?
American TFP Hosts Tribute to a Hero

BY JOHN HORVAT

Over 100 members, supporters and friends gathered at the American TFP offices in Spring Grove, Penn., on October 10 to give an enthusiastic welcome to Colonel Gerald H. Turley, USMC, Retired.

Over his long Marine career, Col. Turley has performed many functions while defending the nation: former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense and Special Consultant to the Undersecretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Navy, the Commandant of the Marine Corps and the Chief of Naval Research.

Nevertheless, Col. Turley will always stand out for his heroic action during the 1972 Easter Offensive in South Vietnam. It was during his second tour of duty in Vietnam as senior military adviser that Col. Turley directed battlefield operations to repel the communist North Vietnamese Army from invading South Vietnam.

In addition to numerous combat decorations, including the Purple Heart, Col. Turley was awarded the Secretary of Defense’s Meritorious Medal for his extensive, post-Marine Corps service in the Pentagon’s Senior Executive Service. A well-known military author, Col. Turley has written several books on modern warfare, and he is perhaps best known for his first, The Easter Offensive: The Last American Advisors, a detailed account of the 1972 failed invasion of South Vietnam.

He has served on several military boards, including the Naval War College; the Naval, Marine, Coast Guard Resident Foundation; the Marine Historical Foundation; the Marine Corps Heritage Center; the National Marine Corps Association; and the Marine Corps Advisors Association.

Col. Turley, now 84, told the riveting story of 1972 Easter Offensive to a standing-room-only auditorium. He detailed the desperate situation he faced when tens of thousands of well-equipped, North Vietnamese Army regulars poured across the DMZ separating North and South Vietnam. With less than a week in his new command, Col. Turley directed U.S. ground, air and naval fire to support South Vietnam’s embattled Marine and Army units stationed along the DMZ. As result, the communist invasion was halted.

He is well known as the man who ordered Col. John Ripley to blow up the Dong Ha Bridge and thus break the offensive’s momentum, which countermanded orders given by higher command and could have resulted in an end to his career and even court martial. Col. Turley took the risk in face of the situation and thus showed great moral courage.

Norman Fulkerson, author of the book, An American Knight, invited Col. Turley for the event. Attending the lecture were students from the TFP-staffed St. Louis de Montfort Academy.

At the reception following the talk, the crowd was treated to two prepared paellas, a Spanish dish of rice, fish, clams and meats made in special four-foot-wide dishes over an outdoor fire.

The TFP’s Holy Choirs of Angels band also performed a medley of patriotic and military hymns finishing with the playing of “Taps” for all the brave soldiers who fought in the Easter Offensive.

The whole evening was a fitting tribute for a real hero.
Few Americans realize that St. Augustine, Fla., shares a duel distinction in America’s history. Not only was it the birthplace of Catholicism in America, it was also the birthplace of devotion to the Mother of God in America. In fact, Catholic historians would agree that St. Augustine is unique because it continues the devotion to the Mother of God that dates back to the time of Herod’s persecution of the Holy Family.

Spain’s Admiral Pedro de Aviles sighted the Florida coast near Cape Canaveral on August 28, 1565, the feast day of St. Augustine. Father Francisco Lopez de Mendoza, chaplain of the fleet chronicled the following text in his writings,

On September 8, the general disembarked. I had gone ashore the evening before; I took a cross and went out to meet him, singing the hymn, Te Deum Laudamus. The general, followed by all who accompanied him, marched up to the cross, knelt and kissed it. A large number of the Indians watched the proceedings and imitated all they saw done.

The first mass was celebrated on the Nativity of Our Lady, September 8, 1565. “This is where the gospel was preached to the native people for the first time,” explains Mr. Eric P. Johnson, the current director of the shrine.

On the tranquil grounds of the Mission of Nombre de Dios is the chapel that houses a replica of the statue of Our Lady of Le Leche. This shrine holds the historical title of being the first shrine dedicated to the Mother of God in the United States. Unique as this is, something more unique is the history behind this beautiful devotion.

During Herod’s persecution, Our Lady, with the Infant Jesus and Saint Joseph, fled to a grotto in Bethlehem. Legend has it that while the Blessed Mother was nursing the Infant Jesus a drop of her milk fell upon a large rock in the grotto and changed the stone’s color from gray to chalky white. Miracles were attributed to the grotto, and by the sixth century, pilgrims were venerating the site. This grotto, known as the Milk Grotto, is still tended by the Holy Land Franciscans and became a place of devotion to the Mother of God because of her intercession for the women who prayed there for infertility and difficult pregnancies.

Mr. Johnson informed me that, according to legend, this devotion came to Spain during the Crusades. It seems in Spain the statue was carved around 1598. A drunken sailor stole the statue, and a Spanish noble rescued it and took it home. He and his wife prayed fervently before the statue because his wife was suffering from an illness that threatened her life and her unborn child’s life. The baby was born healthy and both lives were spared.

Because of this event, King Phillip III erected a shrine in honor of Nuestra Señora de la Leche y Buen Parto in a church in Madrid. Many miracles for healthy babies and deliveries were credited to Our Lady’s intercession. In his booklet, Mission of Nombre de Dios, Matthew Geiger states that over the years Queen Sophia of Spain was among some of the expectant mothers who visited the shrine.

In the early 1600s, Spaniards brought a replica of the statue of Our Lady of the Nursing Child to St. Augustine, begin-

Legend has it that while the Blessed Mother was nursing the Infant Jesus a drop of her milk fell upon a large rock in the grotto and changed the stone’s color from gray to chalky white.
One couple from Pennsylvania, who couldn’t conceive, traced the time of their newborn son’s conception to the time they spent in St. Augustine.

During my interview, I asked Mr. Johnson how visitors react when they come to the shrine. He said, “It is interesting to note that many of the people who pass through St. Augustine are on their way to Disneyland and they are not giving much importance to their visit here. But when they enter the shrine you can see by their expressions that something really touches them, they feel a presence. They experience a calmness that they never felt before. Many of them comment about the peace that they felt inside the chapel where Our Lady’s image dwells.” He continued, “Some pray for spiritual conversions, some for a cure of an illness, some pray for a cross they are carrying.”

He also informed me that the original statue that was brought here in 1610 is now somewhere in Cuba. It seems when the British attacked St. Augustine in 1758, the Spanish fled to Cuba with the statue and to this day nobody knows of its whereabouts. Mr. Johnson informed me that when Cubans come to visit the shrine he always requests them to ask their relatives in Cuba if any of them have heard about the missing statue.

More astonishingly is the connection Our Lady has with the women who travel to the shrine to petition her for the grace to conceive a child. Many of their requests are granted, and what was impossible for them before, has become possible. One couple from Pennsylvania, who couldn’t conceive, traced the time of their newborn son’s conception to the time they spent in St. Augustine.

It is hard for Americans to imagine that this devotion has been around for over 400 years in the United States. Thousands of Americans travel annually to Europe to visit the Catholic shrines and historical places, but few Americans know about the tremendous amount of Catholic history in our country. If you ever get the chance to visit the first American shrine dedicated to the Mother of God in St Augustine, don’t pass it up. You will be richly rewarded by Our Lady of the Nursing Child’s presence in the beautiful chapel built for her by the Spanish explorers and missionaries who arrived here to bring new souls to the Catholic Faith over 400 years ago.

The shrine of Our Lady of the Nursing Child in St. Augustine, Florida.

Prayer for women to Our Lady of the Nursing Child for conception and a healthy pregnancy

Loving Lady of La Leche, most loving Mother of the Child Jesus, and my mother, listen to my humble prayer. Your motherly heart knows my every wish, my every need. To you only His spotless Virgin Mother, has your Divine Son given to understand the sentiments which fill my soul. Yours was the sacred privilege of being the Mother of the Savior. Intercede with him now, my loving mother, that, in accordance with His will, I may become the mother of other children of our heavenly Father. This I ask, O Lady of La Leche, in the name of your Divine Son, my Lord and Redeemer.

Amen.

(Intended for private recitation only.)
As we leave 2010 behind and step into the New Year, it is impossible not to be filled with renewed hopes, wider horizons and stronger resolutions. As we face the battles and challenges to come, the enemy of our souls would prefer we give up and leave our values behind, but the New Year gives us an opportunity to pray for heroic zeal and an even greater determination.

We hope that Crusade Magazine continues to be a source of encouragement and guidance for years to come. We assure you that nothing inspires us more than the hope that we are in some way helping you in your daily lives.

We take advantage of this end-of-year message to extend to you our heartfelt gratitude for being a reader and our warmest wishes for the New Year.